

Washington, DC -- In response to requests by U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) and U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has agreed to reinvestigate if former Canterbury Press employees are eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits.

“The Canterbury employees deserve and need TAA benefits, and I am glad that the Department of Labor has listened to our calls and will give their application consideration,” **Arcuri said**. “Today’s announcement is the vital first step in the TAA appeals process, and I will continue to work with Assemblywoman Destito, Senator Clinton, state agencies and former Canterbury employees to make sure local workers and their families get the support they need.”

“The abrupt shuttering of the Canterbury Press left their hardworking employees without the jobs and the income they need to make ends meet in these trying economic times,” **said Senator Clinton**

. “While it is good to see that the Department of Labor has responded to our concerns and will be taking another look at the employees’ request for TAA benefits, it is critical that they speed the process so that they can begin to receive the TAA benefits they deserve as soon as possible. These benefits are essential to matching employees with the benefits, education, and skills local employers are looking for, so that they can continue to live and work in the community they’ve built their lives in.”

Earlier this month, Arcuri and Clinton both sent letters to U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, requesting that the Department of Labor grant an appeal by the former Canterbury employees for TAA benefits. Clinton and Arcuri also called on the federal Labor Department to launch an investigation into the closing of Canterbury Press, including the loss of a \$3.5 million employee retirement account.

In the DOL’s certification to grant the Canterbury employees’ appeal for TAA benefits, Elliot S. Kushner, Certifying Officer for the agency’s Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance stated, “After careful review of the application, I conclude that the claim is of sufficient weight to justify reconsideration of the U.S. Department of Labor’s prior decision. The application is, therefore, granted.”

In July, Canterbury officials, on behalf of their employees, submitted an application to the U.S.

Department of Labor - Employment and Training Administration (ETA) for Trade Adjustment Assistance and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance. After an unusually quick investigation, Canterbury received a negative determination from ETA regarding eligibility for trade assistance. Following today's announcement, the U.S. Department of Labor will begin a new investigation regarding the eligibility of former Canterbury Press employees for TAA benefits.

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